

PRESIDENT

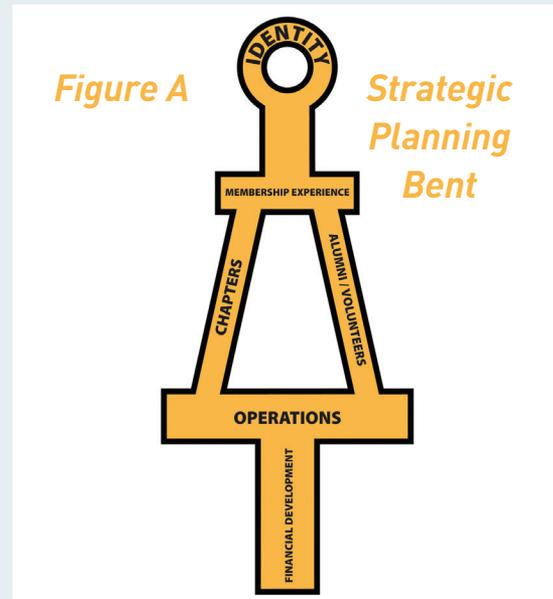
ADDRESSING CONVENTION:
STATE OF THE ASSOCIATION

RACHEL K. ALEXANDER, P.E., *California Upsilon '15*
2023 President of the Association.

The Tau Beta Pi Association is governed by the Convention and the Executive Council (EC). These two bodies control all matters and affairs pertaining to the Association as a whole. The EC is comprised of nine elected alumni and the Executive Director. The EC has multiple responsibilities that are outlined in the provisions of our Constitution and Bylaws. The work of the Association is performed by the Headquarters staff under the leadership of Executive Director Curtis D. Gomulinski, and by alumni volunteers who serve as Advisors, District Directors, Engineering Futures Facilitators (EF), and members of Boards, Committees, and Task Forces. Thank you to everyone for your continued efforts. At Convention, the EC reports our activities during the preceding year with a State of the Association address and is subsequently published in *The Bent* magazine. As Council Chair and President of the Association, I present this report on behalf of the Executive Council.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

At our January retreat, the EC created **Figure A** to define how our Strategic Priorities interact. The purpose of the Strategic Plan is to give the Association direction for achievable, measurable goals over 3-5 years that improve and enhance our identity, chapter support, operations, and strengthen our financial health. **Financial Development**, shown at the bottom of the image, indicates that strong finances support our Association **Operations** to provide resources for our **Chapters** and **Alumni/Volunteers**. Strong and healthy chapters, both collegiate and alumni, create a great **membership experience** for members that encourages them to stay involved. The membership experience, Scholarships & Fellowships, the EF Program, networking with alumni, and more, can be what defines our inward and outward facing **Identity**. The EC defined goals for the Membership, Finance, and Operations portions of our Strategic Planning Bent and asked for feedback from the Convention on Identity. A well-defined identity creates the message for people to join TBII and continue to support the Association.



YEAR IN REVIEW

The Association is comprised of 255 active collegiate chapters and 50 active alumni chapters, organized into 16 Districts. Overall, our chapters initiated 7,289 members between August 2022 and July 2023. Since the start of the fall semester in August 2023, 26 new members were initiated. The Association has a total 633,018 members. Six members resigned and none were expelled. Four new chapters, approved at the 2022 Convention, were installed: the Georgia Delta Chapter at University of Georgia, the Massachusetts Kappa Chapter at Merrimack College, the North Carolina Eta Chapter at Western Carolina University, and the Tennessee Eta Chapter at Lipscomb University. Two new provisional alumni chapters are operating: Southwest Florida and Charlotte, NC. The 2023 Convention approved petitions for two new international chapters that will be installed in the coming months: The American University of Sharjah and Texas A&M University at Qatar.

The President's Report continues on page 38.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

EMINENT ENGINEERS

The EC uses a quarterly report system and task management software to formalize communication, review committee proposals, and track our progress. We recently approved a proposal from the DEI Committee to actively recruit and initiate diverse eminent engineers from underrepresented groups. Eminent engineer candidates are individuals who exhibit all the qualities of a member of the Association but were not initiated into membership while pursuing an engineering degree. For collegiate chapters, initiating eminent engineers can be a means to develop new chapter advisors and create a network of alumni for chapter support. This proposal is in keeping with our Strategic Plan. Our Constitution and Bylaws define the eligibility of eminent engineers in Article II, Section 5.

FINANCES

The Association's finances include several components including donations, merchandise sales, and proceeds from money invested in our Trust. TBII's fiscal year is from August to July. The Alumni Giving Program received donations from 9,400 members with total giving for the period of August 2022 to July 2023 at \$2,000,416. The Tau Beta Pi Trust was valued at \$35.7M in August 2022, and \$38.8M in July 2023. The Trust is managed by our corporate trustee, Vanguard, and five Tau Bates with financial investment backgrounds were appointed to the Trust Advisory Committee (TAC) by the EC. Overall, the mission of the TAC is to ensure assets of the investment trust are managed prudently and in accordance with the long-term needs of the Association.

Another means to strengthen our financial development is through the Chapter Endowment Initiative (CEI) program. Donations from individuals, companies, and foundations to the CEI permanently endow the Association's activities at any of our 255 collegiate chapters. Endowed chapters receive permanent financial support for some of the activities that directly benefit our collegiate members and cultivates a great membership experience. We received gifts and pledges from 129 individual donors for 79 chapters and 29 chapters are fully endowed.

ENGINEERING FUTURES

The award-winning Engineering Futures (EF) Program provides professional development training.

New curriculum was developed in collaboration with CyberAmbassadors and funded by the National Science Foundation in 2017. Since then, more than 11,200 participants have attended over 390 sessions using the new EF curriculum. The curriculum offers our members and communities training focused on communications, teamwork, and leadership skills. Director Katy Colbry and our Facilitators are truly elevating TBII in our communities by providing outreach and service sessions with other organizations, companies, and programs.

SCHOLARSHIPS & FELLOWSHIPS

A large portion of our Trust is designated to providing scholarships and fellowships. Awards have been distributed to more than 4,148 undergraduate scholars since 1998 and 1,799 graduate fellowships since 1928. Our Fellowship Program is the key component in our advancement of engineering education and the profession. The Association awarded 265 scholarships and 32 graduate fellowships in 2023.

TARGETED MESSAGES

The 2023 Convention's Image and Marketing Committee was asked to evaluate and identify communication messages for college campuses and how to target the messages for our various audiences. My good friend, Vice President Ron Hickling, wrote his Council's Corner (page 2) about our Identity and how defining that will help guide us. The EC will take the recommendations from the Convention and incorporate them into goals for the Strategic Plan.

FINAL THOUGHTS

Our most important goal is to improve Chapter Support and Operations. Many chapters are still struggling as we rebound from the pandemic. The Student Advisory Board (SAB) and the Chapter Development Committee are great resources for chapters. I also encourage all Tau Bates to network with each other through our social media channels to share ideas and resources. When you have questions or need support, please reach out to your District Directors, local alumni, Headquarters, and the Executive Council. Together, we can improve the Association.

RACHEL ALEXANDER works as an associate civil engineer for the Sacramento Area Sewer District. She was first elected to the TBII Executive Council in 2019, was re-elected in 2022, and served as president in 2023. Her B.S. degree is in civil engineering from California State University, Sacramento, and she is a registered professional engineer in California.